On Sunday, June 1, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., BEKI will hold a party with live and silent auctions, cocktails, gourmet hors d’oeuvres and desserts — and plenty of fun. The theme of this year’s auction is caring for the environment, and everyone will go home with a reusable tote bag, emblazoned with the BEKI logo and the names of our wonderful sponsors.

There are a variety of goods and services available this year. Among the items generously donated by BEKI members and friends: a get-away weekend at a beautiful vacation home in Vermont, an afternoon’s sail on Long Island Sound (with Tina Rose), a private tour of the Grove Street Cemetery (with docent Daniel Lovins), home-baked hallahs by Judi Jannette, and a hallah-baking lesson with Helene Sapadin, a behind-the-scenes visit to Yale’s incomparable Babylonian collection (with scholar Bill Hallo), hand-crafted jewelry, massages, and much more.

And we have a special offering you can bid on this year: three private parties, each featuring a BEKI celebrity speaker and gourmet food. Groups are encouraged to bid on these together.

• Marcia Landesman, associate director of admissions for Yale College, will speak at a brunch hosted by Elayne and Mort Dimenstein. She will talk about what elite colleges and universities are really looking for when they screen applications.

• BEKI President Jay Sokolow, radiologist and contest king, will be the featured guest at a dinner hosted by Rachel and Allen Sutin. Jay will explain how you, too, can enter contests and win prizes.

• Author Mark Oppenheimer will talk about contemporary Jewish fiction and its roots in the 20th century. Rachel and Steve Wizner will host that dinner.

Once again Bidding for BEKI will have a table with “white elephant” surprise gifts. These were a big hit last time, and will surely attract a lot of bids again.

Invitations (designed by Lynn Brotman) are in the mail. Mark your calendar and plan to come.

If you have something to donate to the auction (a new item, genuine antique, or service), please don’t wait to be called. Contact Peggy in the BEKI office, or Auction Chair Elayne Dimenstein.

CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY AT BEKI

Come listen and learn about families like yours who are building a living Jewish legacy and supporting their community for the future. Rabbi Murray Levine will host an evening of dialogue and discussion on this important topic. Mike Silverberg will present examples drawn from a range of Jewish families, showing how they have worked to help transmit their values through charitable giving from generation to generation. Come join fellow congregants at the home of Rabbi Murray Levine, 35 Knollwood Drive, in Westville, on June 3, at 7 p.m. Kosher wine and snacks will be served. There will not be any solicitations; this is a chance to listen and exchange in a comfortable setting. For information, contact John Weiser at 314-8600.
BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:
• Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
• Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
• Email: jtilsen@beki.org
• Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.
Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.
Annual subscription is $36

BEKI Bulletin © 2008 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
© 2008 Jon-Jay Tilsen. All rights reserved.

Editor
Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen

Associate Editor
Donna Levine

Associate Editor
Donna Kemper

Associate Editor
Herbert Winer

Circulation Manager
Saul Bell

Photographer
Charles Ludwig

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 25
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
Ask us about establishing a fund, trust or annuity to ensure BEKI’s future.

Charitable giving strengthens our Community and provides the donor with tax savings.

Greater New Haven County Real Estate
Call the EXPERT!

Mark Levine
203.795.2483
203.795.6000 Office
Mark.Levine@CBMoves.com

REALTOR
Call TODAY for your free market evaluation!

Visit us at www.beki.org
A Message from President Jay Sokolow

Dear Religious School Parents and BEKI members:

Dorothy Bowser has decided not to return as principal next year, so that she can pursue other projects. She will continue through the end of the school year.

We are considering options for a successor and I will keep you informed as to our progress. Please email me at president@beki.org or call me at 387-6019 with any questions or suggestions you may have.

The centerpiece of a successful school is the children and their families. Thank you for the privilege of educating your children. BEKI will make sure that they continue to have the finest Religious School experience possible.

---

Brunch on Jewish Women in Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Abuse

A community brunch on Sunday, May 4, at 9:45 a.m. will feature speakers who will share their inspiring personal stories of recovery from alcohol- and drug-dependency. The brunch will be held in the Downstairs Social Hall.

This event is open to all. No reservations are necessary. In addition to a thought-provoking talk, a delicious, hot brunch will be served.

The guest speakers represent a New York City-based organization called JACS: Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others, which is a program of the Jewish Board of Family And Children’s Services, Inc. (JBFCS). JACS recently published *Jewish Sisters in Sobriety*, the first book ever about Jewish girls and women in recovery from alcoholism and substance abuse.

*Jewish Sisters in Sobriety* is a collection of passionate and compelling first-person accounts of what it is like to be an alcoholic or chemically-addicted Jewish woman—or the spouse, child or parent of one—and to have found sobriety and recovery from alcoholism and substance abuse.

*Jewish Sisters in Sobriety* is both a 12-Step book and a Jewish book,” said Audrey Waxman, a key member of the editorial committee. “In 12-Step terms, it represents the experience, strength and hope of the contributors and their commitment to carry the message to others. In keeping with Jewish tradition, it reflects the core values of tiqu olam (repairing the world), teshuva (repentance and return) and tzedaq (caring for others).”

Sylvie S., one of the speakers, is a former actress and a trained substance abuse counselor. She has devoted herself to philanthropic causes and helping others, focusing on programs concerned with battered women and children. For twelve years she ran a twelve-step program at Rikers Island, seven years on the men’s side and five on the women’s.

As a member of the JACS council, Sylvie oversees relationships with addiction facilities and serves as the Crisis Coordinator for the JACS hotline. She is reputedly a highly effective and popular community speaker and has represented JACS at UJA Federation agencies, the Jewish Institute of Pastoral Care, the Council of Mutual Support Groups at Hazelden in Minnesota and at Hebrew schools, Yeshivot, civic groups and women’s organizations.

Copies of the book will be available at the brunch. For more information, contact JACS at www.jacsweb.org or (212) 399-2685 x232.
From Pesah to Shavuot

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second seder, we began daily sefirat ha-omer (counting of the omer), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai. Counting is the fulfillment of a mitzva specified in the Torah: “You shall count from the eve of the second day of Pesah, when an Omer of grain is to be brought as an offering, seven complete weeks. The day after the seventh week of your counting will make fifty days” (Lev. 23:15-16).

The simple home ceremony appears in Sim Shalom and most siddurim (prayer books) immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, sefirat ha-omer can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the sefira served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment given the dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term omer refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day’s number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom
— Psalm 90:12

LaG BeOmer Kumsitz

On Thursday, May 22, from 6:15 to 8 p.m., everyone is invited to a LaG BeOmer Kumsitz campfire sing-along. Please see the mid-month mailing for location and details.

Bring instruments and song sheets. In case of rain, the sing-along will be indoors at the same location (sans campfire).

LaG BeOmer is the thirty-third day of the counting of the Omer, the period between Passover and Shavuot, and marks the end of a semi-mourning period between the two festivals.

This music program is made possible through the support of the Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music at BEKI.

Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish Hajj

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,400 years ago. The word hag (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, haji (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI’s Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Sweeter than Honey Night of Study will be on Sunday night, June 8. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means cheesecake.

The evening begins with the Minha Afternoon Service, from 8:15 to 8:25 p.m. The brief Festival Evening service, from 8:25 to 8:45, will be followed at 9 p.m. by
a presentation.

After another break for refreshments, exploration of Torah continues with another presentation. A late-night shiur by Moshe Meiri will begin sometime after 10:45 p.m. For more details, see next month’s Bulletin.

\[ SHAVUOT \]

\section*{Shavuot Mornings}

\textbf{Yizkor Memorial Service}

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shacharit Morning Service begins at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, June 9. The service includes the full recitation of Hallel.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10. The Festival service includes a Shacharit morning service, Hallel (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and Haftara. Following the Haftara (prophetic reading), the Yizkor Memorial Service is held. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following Yizkor, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of ta’améi hamiqra (“trope”) found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival Musaf additional service is recited.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{shavuot.jpg}
\caption{Shavuot Festival}
\end{figure}

Visit us at www.beki.org

BEKI May 2008
Thinking Florida?

Think Indian Spring Country Club!

The Perfect Spot to Retire, Vacation or Get Away for the Winter!

Indian Spring is located in Boynton Beach, right in the middle of Palm Beach County, where almost everything you come to see, do and enjoy in Florida is within 20 minutes of your front door.

We have housing for every taste, budget and lifestyle: single-family homes from 1,400 to 4,000 sq. ft.; apartments from 1,100 to 2,100 sq. ft. Almost all our housing has beautiful golf course or lake/garden views.

And if you’re not ready to move, take advantage of our trial Country Club membership for renters (Golf, Tennis or Social) and enjoy all the same privileges as our resident members.

Our beautiful 52,000 sq. ft. Clubhouse is the focus of our active adult lifestyle; the center of the social life that weaves the community together. Indian Spring has it all!

- Fitness Classes and Personal Training
- Lap Swimming and Water Aerobics
- Card Rooms, Card Parties & Tournaments
- Bridge, Canasta and Mah Jongg Games and Lessons
- Formal Dining and Grille Rooms
- Parties, shows, lectures
- Two totally rebuilt 18-Hole Championship Golf Courses
- Superb practice facilities
- 26 Har Tru™Tennis Courts
- Olympic-size Pool
- And perhaps best of all, the camaraderie of fellow Indian Spring members

We are proud to be known for our warmth and friendliness. When you join Indian Spring, you’ll find you’re a member of the family from Day One.

For more information about Indian Spring, we invite you to call us at 561-738-3065 or Visit our website: indianspringcc.com. Be sure to select View Our Video!

Indian Spring Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Rd., Boynton Beach, FL 33437
A preschool program for children ages 2 to 6

Celebrating Jewish Tradition

Now Accepting Enrollment

The success of the Montessori classroom is dependent on its core beliefs; freedom within limits and respect for each other and the environment. The goal of the program is to cultivate the child’s own natural desire to learn.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel • 85 Harrison St, New Haven
Lana Gad-Director 203.389.7445

Jewish Home for the Aged
Goodwin-Levine Adult Day Health Center
169 Davenport Avenue • New Haven 06519
for 90 years serving the elderly in traditional Jewish surroundings

Skilled Nursing • Short term Rehabilitation • Adult Day Health Services
Resident Centered Care • The Bridge from hospital to home • Support to keep loved ones at home

Full Time Geriatricians • Glatt Kosher • Four season courtyard • Reserved Parking

Call 203-789-1650 for information
Bea Zampano, JHA Admissions ext. 237 Judy Rolnick, Director, GLADHC ext. 310
New math. 5,000-year-old standards.

At Ezra Academy, our students are immersed in a wonderful combination of academic excellence and Jewish values. To learn how an Ezra Academy education will benefit your child, call our Director of Admissions at 203-389-5500 today.
WE’VE DEDICATED OURSELVES TO THIS DREAM
NOW WE URGE YOU TO DEDICATE YOURSELF

The Fuchsgberg Jerusalem Center of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is a home within the homeland for Conservative Jews from North America.

It’s your center of Conservative life and learning, prayer and play, culture and creativity in the heart of Jerusalem.

At the Fuchsgberg Jerusalem Center, you can enjoy concerts in our auditorium, feast in our elegant dining rooms, attend discussions in lecture halls, pray in our synagogues, study in the Conservative Yeshiva, and there is so much more more.

Now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is embarking on a major campaign to support this bastion of Conservative life. We urgently need your participation to help us complete this dream.

SUPPORT THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER
YOUR HOME WITHIN THE HOMELAND

Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue’s Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org

Visit us at www.beki.org
HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of
William Karsif,
father of Brian Karsif
Leo Hauptman
Sherwin Fischman,
father of Reyna (& David) Ottenstein

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Welcome New Members and Their Families
Jessica Zein & David Miller and Aubrie

Letters

Thank you, BEKI community, for your contributions in honor of Alvin Sapadin. Your friendship and support nourished our souls. Your food nourished our bodies, and your donations keep the community strong. We are grateful to be part of this extraordinary community.

Sincerely, The Sapadin Family

Shabbaton

It’s that time of year again. School is coming to a close, people are getting ready for the summer, and everyone is getting excited for BEKI/BJ USY’s Annual Shabbaton. Every year Beki/BJ USY holds an infamous Shabbaton at Camp Laurelwood. The Shabbaton is the most popular event every year with a big number of enthusiastic attendees. Throughout the weekend you get to meet new people, learn about Judaism, have a bonfire, play sports in the fields outside, and so much more. All the programming is made by the BEKI/BJ USY board, which consists of highschoolers, so you know it’s going to be fun and interesting. Don’t forget to mark your calendars and tell friends about this year’s Shabbaton which will be held from May 30 to June 1. See you there!

If you have any questions, contact Karen Sutin (karensutin@yahoo.com) or Daphne Lew at (isrligrl714@yahoo.com).

Mazal Tov to

Annie Bass on her first-place prize in prose for her story “Plumber” in the Thornton Wilder Writing Competition 2008 (Hamden Library)

Daphne Lew on her first-place prize in poetry for her poem “June Baby” in the Thornton Wilder Writing Competition 2008 (Hamden Library)

Dr. Jennifer Botwick on opening her professional office at 1079 Whalley Ave., in the Creative Body Therapies Wellness Center, 387-5015

Alisa Zlotoff on her engagement to Aaron Fine

Bat Mitzva

Mara Rothman, daughter of Stephen & Sheryl Rothman, will lead and participate in services, and will read and teach Scripture, as a bat mitzva on Shabbat Parashat BeHar, May 16-17. Mara is a graduate of the BEKI Religious School and of the Benei Mitzva Program.

Mara Rothman

Daphne Lew and Annie Bass
Soup’s On

On Sunday, March 16, ten USY-ers volunteered at the New Haven soup kitchen. The group helped set out food, cut pies and organize utensils for the customers. As a special treat for the diners, the USYers waited on them by serving their dinners at their tables rather than having them serve themselves. After the dining room was cleared, the group helped clean the tables and floors. By volunteering, not only did all the USYers perform a great mitzvah, but everyone enjoyed putting a smile on the faces of people in need. The customers were also extremely happy with the service and greatly enjoyed their meal. The event was a great success and will definitely be repeated in the near future. — Maya Sutin, SATO VP

The Spirit of a USYer

Ruach, or spirit. That’s what I love about USY. At the International Heschel Kinnus there was an overload of Ruach. People all across U.S. and Canada came to shout their lungs out at the best convention of the year. The AJ Heschel Honor Society is a group within USYers who go beyond the normal expectations and have a special commitment to Judaism. To be part of the Heschel Society a USYer must participate in Judaic study, religious services, and Social Action projects on a regular basis. Each year there is a special international convention where only members of Heschel attend. The feeling of 70 Jewish teens chanting Ivdu Et HaShem B’Simcha (Serve God in Joy) is one that really makes me smile and uplifts the soul. A core group of USYers from all over came for this one amazing weekend to study, see old friends, and of course to sing and chant. Being at Heschel convention was definitely an amazing experience. There were some of the coolest people in USY there for one great weekend. I definitely encourage all USYers to partake in this, and other Heschel programs.

B’Shalom,
Yedidya Ben-Avie, BEKI-BJ USY Religion Education VP, Hanefesh Religion Education Regional General Board
The Liberty
Apartment Homes

Features & Distinctions
- On Site Laundry
- Resident Lounge
- Package Receiving
- Storage Space(s)
- Parking Space(s)
- Professional on-site management
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
  - And more…

Contact Us:
152 Temple Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(888) 866-4802
Shabbatot

Darshanim in May

Gila Reinstein will serve as darshanim on Shabbat morning, May 3, parashat Qedoshim.

Rabbi Murray Levine will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning, May 10, parashat Emor.

Mara Rothman, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanim on Shabbat morning, May 17, parashat BeHar.

Shabbat Shalom

Learners’ Minyan

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in BEKI’s Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

New: Kulanu Discussion Group

Adults who may take part in the Kulanu Friendship Circle and the Saul’s Circle outreach programs are invited to participate in a Shabbat morning discussion group that will meet May 3 and May 24 from 10:45 to 11:30 with Dr. Lauren Kempton. For information, contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30, adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the peshat of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. shaharit service. New participants are welcome.

Wednesdays

Rabbis’ Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own talmud torah (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper for Torah study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

SATO: Social Action – Tiqun Olam

Organizational Meetings: Wednesday, May 14, Group One, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Group Two 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

BEKI Social Action Committee will serve meals at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) on three upcoming Sundays. Please respond if you can help serve 4-6 p.m. on Sunday May 4, Sunday July 6, or Sunday Aug. 3. Please respond to BEKI’s DESK scheduler, Judy Hoberman, jdhoberman@aol.com or (h) 389-2378 or (w) 248-3191.

We need exactly four to eight people on each of these dates. Gloves and hairnets will be provided and must be worn. Don’t come if you don’t feel well.
Contributions

**Rabbi’s Tzedaqah Fund** (minimum $25)
- Louis & Lisa Petrillo in memory of loved ones
- Elma Guttenberg for Mekhirat Hamets
- Morris & Gloria Cohen for Mekhirat Hamets
- Barbara Cushen for Mekhirat Hamets
- Jay & Lynn Brotman for Mekhirat Hamets
- Tamar Edelkind for Mekhirat Hamets
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Marilyn Stern
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of William Karsif
- David & Rayna Belowsky for Mekhirat Hamets
- Blanche Sapadin in Appreciation
- The Sapadin Family in Appreciation
- Arthur & Betty Levy for Mekhirat Hamets
- William Berson & Deborah Ziskin for Mekhirat Hamets
- Evelyn Benson for Mekhirat Hamets
- Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried for Mekhirat Hamets
- Stephen & Rachel Wizner for Mekhirat Hamets
- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman for Mekhirat Hamets
- Morton & Elayne Dimenstein for Mekhirat Hamets
- Gerald & Judith Oppenheim in appreciation to Donna Levine and Rabbi Tilsen
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce for Mekhirat Hamets
- Edward & Carol Anne Kravitz for Mekhirat Hamets
- Lawrence & Rachel Schonberger in Appreciation to the BEKI community

**Qiddush Sponsors** (minimum $250)
- The Sokolow Silverman family
- The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
- Rabbi Murray Levine
- Nanette Stahl & Bill Hallo
- The Corinne Blackmer & Pilar Stewart family

**Chai Fund** (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To the Beki Community with thanks for the Purim basket by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- To Helene Sapadin with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Sapadin by Selma & Jerome Schussler and Debra & Mark Dresner
- For selling of hametz by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- In honor of Mara Benjamin, Miryam Kabakov & Rayzie Benjamin by Ossie & Harry Hanauer
- To Mr. Philip Snow & family with sympathy on the passing of Arnel Snow by Al (Uncle Sonny) & Marge Barnett
- To Mr. Philip Snow & family with sympathy on the passing of Arnel Snow by Caroline Barnett
- To Terri Stern with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Stern by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To BEKI with thanks for the Purim basket by Sarah Goldstein

**Rabbi Andrew Klein Scholarship Fund**
- Rabbi Murray Levine

**Hesed Committee**
- To Stan Saxe in honor of his milestone birthday by David Wright
- To Terri Stern with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Stern by Gila Reinstein

**Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library** for purchase of children’s books
- In memory of her mother Estelle Romanoff by Donna & Sid Levine
- In memory of his father Morris Levine by Sid & Donna Levine

**Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund**
- To Mrs. Leonard Churgin & family with sympathy on the passing of Leonard Churgin by Shirley Mattler & Debra Levine

**Synagogue Fund** (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Dorothea Braginsky with wishes for a complete & speedy recovery by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Mr. & Mrs. Harris Aaronson & family with sympathy on the passing of Brenda Caryl Aaronson by Marjorie Simson
- To BEKI with thanks for the Purim basket by Harriet Meisel

**Yahrzeit Fund** ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Anita Palmer by John & Marsha Reynolds
- In memory of Sylvia Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz
Supporting American and Allied Jewish Soldiers

The Religious School at BEKI has been supporting *Operation Far From Home* for three years. *Operation Far From Home* is a project established to communicate to our Jewish troops that they are not forgotten in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain. The location of our troops and our Jewish history is strongly connected. The city of Ur, in Iraq, is where Abraham Avenu came from. Living in this environment many Jewish troops seek each other out to share their traditions and strengthen their Jewish identity.

In the past, we have made and sent groggers, Rosh Hashanah cards, Judaic items and letters. Most of the items are donated, but for Passover there was a huge expense for kosher meat for the troops this year. If you would like to help pay for future donations of tallit, kosher supplies, etc., please make out a check to “Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel” and mail it to: Operation Far From Home, P.O. Box 8892, New Haven, CT 06532.

*Operation Far From Home* is run by Linda and Phil Bleich. If you would like to learn more, please visit their website at operationfarfromhome.com or email them at contact@operationfarfromhome.com. The wish-list for donations includes CD’s, DVD’s and books with Jewish content, deodorants, travel size shampoo, disposable razors, kipot, long scarves, decks of cards, small packs of tissues, shabbos candles, tea lights, menorahs, soaps regular and travel size, and books of sudoku puzzles. There will be a box in the foyer for donations.

Thank you so much,
Lauren Kempton

A Letter from a Soldier

My name is Scott Leonard and I am an Australian Army Officer serving here in Iraq on the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I). I am also Jewish and my time here has been made bearable by the camaraderie generated by Jews far from home and the overwhelming support of the wider Jewish community.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to your congregation for keeping us in their thoughts and a particular thank you to the children that worked so hard on the wonderful Purim drawings we received. Please let Marlee know that her work will be coming home with me to Australia next month.

Shalom, Scott Leonard, Major, Australian Army

Contributions (continued)

- In memory of her parents Rose & Louis Katz by Sharon & Daniel Prober
- In memory of Helen Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of our dear father & grandfather Harry Spiegel by Howard, Arlene & Harry Gold
- In memory of Shirley Rudof by Stephen Rudof
- In memory of her uncle Morris “Moishe” Schnitman by Helene Vanderhoef Schnitman & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Matthew Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of Lillian Gell by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Kate Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Lillian Chorney by Muriel & Morton Chorney
- In memory of Bess Flamer by Muriel & Morton Chorney
- In memory of Lillian Silverman by Robert Silverman
- In memory of Lilyan Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeffrey Podell
- In memory of Celia Ross by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of Sam Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Samuel Herschderfer by Sherman & David Herschderfer
- In memory of Bennett Schultz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Charles Byer by Barbara & Larry Tiven
- In memory of Edith Winess Lynch by Sylvia Winess
- In memory of Minnie Abramowitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Kitty Greenberg by Irving Greenberg
- In memory of Helen C. Greenberg by Irene Greenberg
- In memory of Ronet Zeehandelaar by the van Creveld & Ben-Avie family
- In memory of her mother Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Paul Wolfson by Steven Wolfson & Elsa Stone
- In memory of Max Jack Gad by Martin & Lana Gad
- In memory of Harriet Winer by Herbert & Hannah Winer
- In memory of Sherwin Brotman by Jay & Lynn Brotman
In April we sponsored the Annual Model Seder for People with Special Needs with the food donated by ACI Catering and Jewish Family Services helping with coordinating transportation. Led by co-president Ruthie Greenblatt with lots of eager participation a pleasant evening was enjoyed by our guests.

Please patronize our Gift Shop. We have lots of new merchandise for weddings, bridal showers and Bar & Bat Mitzvah teens. Earnings from the shop support the synagogue, so shop where your dollar counts the most!

Adele Tyson, Ruthie Greenblatt Co-Presidents

Get Well to:
- Diana Friedman Opton from the Hesed Committee
- George Posener from the Hesed Committee
- Mort Silver from the Hesed Committee
- Violet Ludwig from the Hesed Committee, ShirleyMattler, Deborah Levine
- Charlie Ludwig from the Hesed Committee
- Elayne Dimenstein from the Hesed Committee

Mazel Tov to:
- Murray Levine on his milestone birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Stanley Saxe on his milestone birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Robert Kasowitz on his milestone birthday from Ruth & Morris Olmer
- Estelle Horwitz on her birthday from Stanley Saxe & Barbara Cushen
- Milton Kasowitz in his milestone birthday from Stanley Saxe & Barbara Cushen

Thank you to:
- Herbert Etkind from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Judith Janette from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

In Memory of:
- Mildred Weiner to Rebecca Weiner from the Hesed Committee & the Lew family
- Sarah Klein to Jennifer Klein from the Hesed Committee
- Al Sapadin to Helene Sapadin from the Hesed Committee & Adele Tyson
- Marilyn Stern to Terri Stern from the Hesed Committee & the Lew family
- William Karsif to Brian Karsif from the Hesed Committee
- Ruth Most from Helen Miller
- Morris Levy to the Levy family from Mikki Ratner
- Harold Gaynor to Sandy Gaynor from Adele Tyson
- Doris Horton to Robert Horton & family from Adele Tyson
- Fred Ticotsky to the Rubino-Ticotsky family from Adele Tyson
- Her mother, Charlotte, to Janis Isenberg from Adele Tyson

New: Defibrillator

A portable defibrillator is now in service at the synagogue. This emergency medical device can provide life-saving impulses to treat life-threatening cardia arrhythmias ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia. It is mounted in an alarmed box in the entryway to the handicapped washroom and nursing room just off the main lobby and its location is marked by a placard in the lobby. This gift of life has been provided through the generosity of Dr. Ron Zlotoff and Donna Kemper.

On Sunday mornings this summer, Dr. Steven Wolfson will meet with staff and volunteers to introduce the device and teach how to use it correctly. Interested members are welcome to attend; please contact the office for more information.
Qiddush Honoring Class of 5768

A consortium will be sponsoring a “High School Grad Qiddush” on Shabbat morning, June 21, honoring the class of 5768 (2008). This is on Shabbat parashat Shelah Lekha, which translates, roughly, as “Send Away for Your Own Sake!” If you would like to join in sponsorship, or honor a graduate from this class, please send a contribution in an amount of your choice, made to “Congregation BEKI” with a note designating “Grad Kid” to the BEKI office by June 1 to insure your sponsorship and graduate will be included.

Leave a Legacy

Dear Donna,

I know you’ve been pushing this “Leave a Legacy” idea, that everyone should leave something to charity in their will. I don’t disagree, but I’ve already signed my will and it was such a big project to get done that I really don’t want to have to redo it. I don’t have life insurance or retirement accounts on which I can name BEKI as the beneficiary. I keep putting off dealing with this; is there an easy way for me to “Leave a Legacy”?

Sincerely,

Estate Plan Complete

Dear Estate Plan Complete:

If you are willing to share a copy of your will with me, and tell me the amount or percentage of your estate you would like to leave to BEKI, I would be pleased to prepare a codicil adding the necessary language to your will at no charge. Wouldn’t it be nice if every BEKI member did this? Please contact me at 985-9033 or sdsjj@aol.com, or you can send me a fax at 985-1574. Please do it!

Sincerely,

Donna Levine

Purim Roundup

Thanks you for your support again this year for the Purim Basket project. You made it a very successful fundraiser and community builder, and helped many people fulfill and enjoy the mitzvot of Purim. Special thanks to the Purim Basket deliverers — blessings on your heads!

Kol tuv, Ina Silverman

Children’s Library News

Thanks to a generous donation to the Ari Nathan Levine Fund, the book “The Bedtime Sh’ma: A Good Night Book” has been added to the ANL Collection.

Camp Ramah Alumni Reunion, May 23-25

Alumni of Camp Ramah in New England, Camp Ramah in Glen Spey and Camp Ramah in Connecticut are invited to spend Memorial Day weekend at the Palmer, Mass., camp reminiscing about your days as campers and reconnecting with old friends.

Attendees will enjoy a traditional Ramah Shabbat with a scholar-in-residence, sports, a Saturday night party, hikes and more. Childcare for children ages 2+ will be available.

A base fee of $200 per adult and $100 per child includes cabin accommodations, kosher meals and all programs. Optional housing upgrades are available. More information, including registration materials can be found on the Camp Ramah in New England website, www.campramahne.org or call (781) 449-7090 ext. 225

Reunion Committee: Stu Rosenthal ‘84; Illana Katz Margolis ‘87; Susan Silverman ‘93; Hirsh Kravitz ‘96; Sara Shapiro-Plevan ‘88; and Debbie Eisenkraft Rolan ‘87.

Friendly Face?

If you might like to serve as a “Greeter” on a Shabbat or Festival morning, to welcome guests, direct visitors, and assist those with special needs, please contact Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven Fraade at 397-9430 or steven.fraade@yale.edu, or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

SOYLENT GAS

In other countries, the citizenry riots when bread prices rise. In these United States, it is the price of motor fuel (gasoline and diesel) that incites the masses. Now that the per gallon gas price is approaching that of milk, numerous schemes have been suggested or partially implemented to address what some would have us believe is the greatest calamity of our day.

One government-subsidized boondoggle is the plan to turn our food into gas. This, even though it takes almost as much fossil fuel to grow and convert the crops as is produced at the end of the process. This, even though it drives up global food prices and endangers the lives of many millions who live at a bare subsistence level. We may as well turn their bodies directly into gasoline to fuel our guzzlers. It’s not considered cannibalism unless you eat them.

A second plan is to reduce state and federal taxes on petroleum, on the theory that doing so would provide immediate relief to consumers. Unfortunately, this plan would simply shift the tax burden to some other vehicle and undoubtedly to the same people (us). The tax reduction would soon be lost in higher demand, higher prices and higher profit margins.

As it is, gasoline is highly government-subsidized. Uncountable billions are expended to provide access to public lands, build transportation systems such as highways, cover pollution-induced medical and productivity costs, and insure security for international shipping. If consumers paid the real cost of gasoline, prices would double, and we’d be better off for it. We pay either way — through federal taxes or at the pump.

That’s my take on the issue, and now you see why I can never run for public office.

What can we do? Prepare for higher prices by reducing our consumption, and stop complaining about higher prices. We already have far worse things to complain about, and we are sure to have more.

_A good name is better than fine oil_

— Proverbs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yom Hashoah</td>
<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Talmud with Moshe</td>
<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Brunch with</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Rashi Study</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>guest speakers: Jewish Women in Recovery from Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse representing JACS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 Nisan/11 L’Omer</td>
<td>27 Nisan/12 L’Omer</td>
<td>28 Nisan/13 L’Omer</td>
<td>26 Nisan/11 L’Omer</td>
<td>27 Nisan/12 L’Omer</td>
<td>28 Nisan/13 L’Omer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Talmud with Moshe</td>
<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Nisan/14 L’Omer</td>
<td>30 Nisan/15 L’Omer</td>
<td>1 Iyar/16 L’Omer</td>
<td>2 Iyar/17 L’Omer</td>
<td>3 Iyar/18 L’Omer</td>
<td>4 Iyar/19 L’Omer</td>
<td>5 Iyar/20 L’Omer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Talmud with Moshe</td>
<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office Closed/Memorial Day</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
<td>7:30pm Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Shaharit</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Office Closed/Memorial Day</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Shaharit</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>General Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>General Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>General Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>General Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>General Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>General Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Iyar/35 L’Omer</td>
<td>21 Iyar/36 L’Omer</td>
<td>22 Iyar/37 L’Omer</td>
<td>23 Iyar/38 L’Omer</td>
<td>24 Iyar/39 L’Omer</td>
<td>25 Iyar/40 L’Omer</td>
<td>26 Iyar/41 L’Omer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Service Times for Spring / Summer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>Saturdays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>6 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>6 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 Minha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>